

# Australian Rose Award 2016 (ARA)

## Sue Kingsford, ARA

Sue's contribution to roses and the Rose Society was recognised by the RS of NSW when she was presented with the Bert Mulley Award for excellence in achievement in 1996 and was also presented with the Stewart Memorial Award for her outstanding service to the rose and Rose Society in 2004. She has not rested on her laurels nor lost her enthusiasm or commitment to the rose and Rose Society since then, reaching her 81st year this year, pushing herself to achieve what younger people can only envy.



Photo: Susan Wade

Since then she:

- Has continued as secretary of the RS of NSW, which she began in 1989, until 2007, which is a big achievement and vote of confidence by her peers;
- Served as secretary of the NRSA from 2007-2009;
- Has been recognised by the RS of NSW with Life Membership in 2007 for long and distinguished service;
- Is currently serving Heritage Roses in Australia as conference Convenor (2015-16) after serving as secretary during the previous NSW administration 2002-2004;
- In 2004 started the Roses and Friends nursery with Steve Beck, in which she promotes roses of all kinds, but especially some of the rare and hard to find ones that are deserving of conservation;
- Also promotes a wide range of Australian bred roses through the nursery, including many offered by no others and also supporting some breeders who might not have the chance to have their roses available to the public without this outlet;
- Has written excellent cultural notes for both her regional bulletin (Illawarra Rose News) and the NSW Rose, the quarterly magazine of the RS of NSW (2016);
- Is active in her local area (Southern Highlands of NSW and Illawarra region), giving talks to Garden clubs on the subject of roses;
- Has been instrumental in bringing new rose varieties to Australia and gaining recognition for them through the National Rose Trial Garden of Australia, where they have won a number of awards, representing English breeders Chris Warner and Horner roses as well as others;
- In spite of her busy life, she has maintained an active contribution to the RS of NSW as a member of the State Council where her experience is appreciated;
- Maintains a large garden with a range of the oldest to the newest roses and particularly the less commercially popular shrub roses.

The RS of NSW has great pleasure in presenting Mrs Sue Kingsford as a very worthy candidate for the Australian Rose Award in 2016.